

PROTECT COMPANION ANIMALS IN HOT CARS:

Grant Good Samaritans Civil Immunity for Proper Rescues

SUPPORT TEXAS SB 250 (ZAFFIRINI) | HB 810 (ISRAEL)

MUCH OF THE YEAR,
TEXAS HAS DANGEROUS
TEMPERATURES FOR
COMPANION ANIMALS LEFT
IN UNATTENDED VEHICLES

What will these bills do?

Protect Good Samaritans who rescue domestic animals (dogs, cats, and other domesticated animals that are kept as companion animals) from motor vehicles by granting civil immunity under certain circumstances.

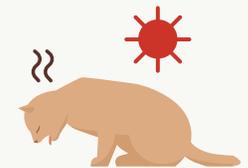
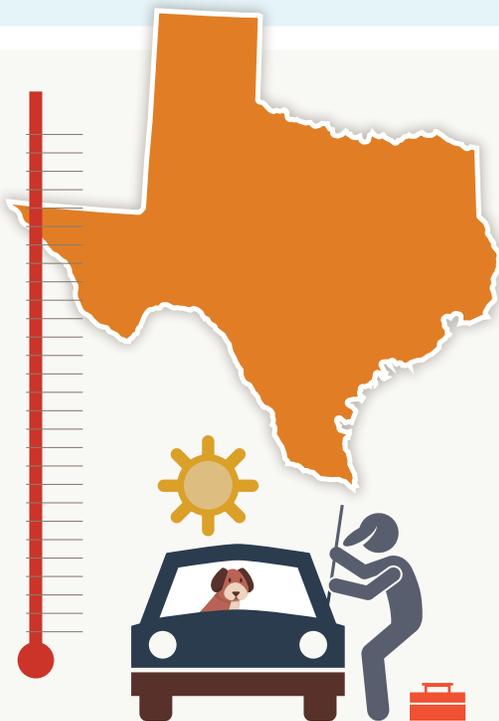


Rescuer must:

1. Check that the motor vehicle is locked
2. Determine that there is no reasonable method for the animal to leave the vehicle without assistance
3. Have a good faith and reasonable belief that rescue is required to avoid imminent harm to the animal
4. Ensure that law enforcement is notified first
5. Remain with the animal near the vehicle until police arrive

Amend 2017 law (§ 92A.002, Civil Practice and Remedies Code) protecting children and vulnerable individuals from same situation to also include domestic animals.

DOGS AND OTHER
COMPANION ANIMALS
ARE PARTICULARLY
VULNERABLE TO DYING
FROM HEATSTROKE
BECAUSE THEY DO NOT
COOL THEMSELVES LIKE
HUMANS. THEY HAVE A
HARDER TIME MAINTAINING
A COMFORTABLE
BODY TEMPERATURE.



Why are they needed?

With so many tragic stories of companion animals dying in the heat, the public is becoming more cognizant of the danger of leaving animals in hot cars.

People often leave their companion animals locked in their car while they run an errand, not realizing that temperatures inside vehicles can rise quickly. Even on a cloudy day with the windows cracked, conditions inside a car may turn lethal for any animals trapped inside within a matter of minutes.

Every year, dogs left in hot cars die. These deaths are entirely avoidable. In only a few minutes, a car heats up to deadly levels.

On a 70 degree day, the temperature inside a car can shoot up to 89 degrees in just 10 minutes. On a warmer day, the temperature can reach 114 degrees in the same amount of time.



Leaving the window open does nothing to reduce the temperature, leaving animals inside vulnerable to heatstroke or death.



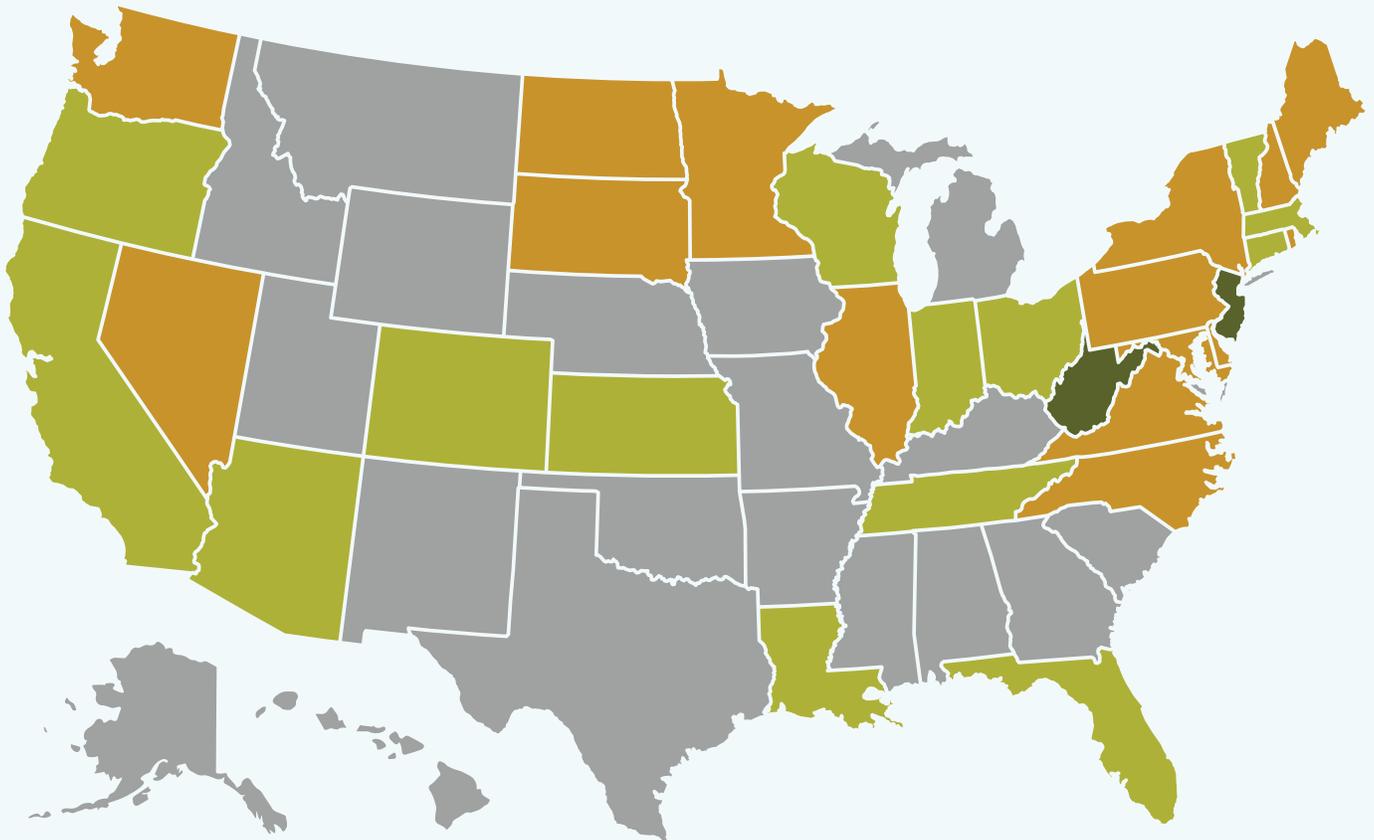
WHAT OTHER STATES HAVE SIMILAR LAWS?

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THERE IS A GROWING TREND OF LAWS CONCERNING ANIMALS LEFT UNATTENDED IN MOTOR VEHICLES

30 states and the District of Columbia have some kind of “dogs in hot cars” law

14 states have civil immunity for Good Samaritans to rescue an animal from an unattended vehicle under certain circumstances (OR, CA, AZ, CO, KS, LA, WI, IN, OH, TN, MA, FL, VT, CT)



DOGS IN HOT CARS

- CRIME TO LEAVE AN ANIMAL UNATTENDED IF RISK OF SERIOUS INJURY/DEATH, BUT NO ONE CAN RESCUE
- LAW ENFORCEMENT CAN BREAK IN TO RESCUE AN ANIMAL
- STATES WITH “GOOD SAMARITAN” LAWS